



2018 – 2019 Fifth Grade Flag Essay Contest

General Information:

The purpose of The American Legion of Iowa Essay contest is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation for the United States Flag on the part of elementary-level students. Other objectives of the contest include the ability to gain knowledge of flag etiquette and respect for the flag.

Awards:

Local and District Contest awards, if any, will be the responsibility of the individual Posts and Districts. Each District finalist must be completed in time to be forwarded to Department of Iowa American Legion, 720 Lyon St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309.

Each of the three Department finalists will be recognized in the same manner as other youth champions and the top three winners will be invited to read their winning essay at the Department Convention. First, Second, and Third Place winners will receive \$500, \$300, and \$200, respectively, from The American Legion of Iowa and Iowa Foundation.

Contests:

Local contests will be conducted and judged by the local sponsoring Legion Post, and the winning essay, along with certification form completed, will be forwarded as follows:

1. **Individual Legion Posts will forward one winning entry to their District Children and Youth Chairman, with signed Participation Application, postmarked by January 2, 2019.**
2. **District entries will be judged by the respective District Children and Youth Chairman, and one District finalist certification and essay, sent to Department Headquarters, postmarked by January 22, 2019 (PLEASE NOTE MID-WINTER FALLS EARLY THIS YEAR).**
3. **Department Children and Youth Committee will judge the nine District entries at Mid-Winter Conference, immediately following the Americanism meeting.**

Essay:

The format for the essay is limited to the following:

- A one (1) page document
- Contains 300 words or less
- Double-spaced
- 12-point font
- The student's own words and effort

The essay is to reflect the student's perspective of what the United States Flag represents to them using facts from the United States Flag Code.

Eligibility:

Participants shall be citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States. All contestants must be students enrolled in the fifth grade in a public, parochial, military, private or state accredited home-school.

The American Legion of Iowa Fifth Grade Flag Essay Contest Participation Application

Section I – **This MUST be attached to EACH ESSAY SUBMITTED!**

To be completed by Elementary School Principal and Parents

This is to certify that Mr./Miss _____ is a student enrolled at _____

Elementary School, located in _____, Iowa, and is not deficient in any school work, and is enrolled for the current school year in the fifth grade.

The above named student is a U.S. Citizen or lawful resident? ____ Yes ____ No Total # of school contestants: ____

Principal's Signature _____

Teacher's Name _____

Parents' Name _____ Parent E-Mail Address _____

Parents' Address _____
(Address) (City) (State) (Zip)

I hereby authorize the publication of my child's essay "What the Flag Means to Me" in any American Legion publication or by the news and social media for public relations purposes for The American Legion of Iowa.

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature _____

Parent or Legal Guardian's Phone Number _____

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Section II

To be completed by The American Legion Post Commander and mailed to:
District Children and Youth Chairman Postmarked by January 2, 2019

I, _____, Commander of American Legion Post _____, in the Department of Iowa American Legion, do hereby certify that the above named student is an official contestant in The American Legion of Iowa Fifth Grade Flag Essay Contest.

Signatures:

Total # of Post Contestants

Post Commander or Post Officer

E-mail address

Phone Number

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Section III

To be completed by the District Children and Youth Chairman and District Commander and forwarded to:
The American Legion of Iowa, 720 Lyon St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309, **Postmarked by January 22, 2019**

I, _____, Commander of _____ District in The American Legion of Iowa, do hereby certify that the above named contestant was declared by District Children and Youth Chairman as the winner of this Contest, and is eligible to represent the _____ District in the Department (state) Contest.

Total # of District Contestants

District Chairman, Americanism or CY Committee
_____ District, Department of Iowa

District Commander
_____ District, Department of Iowa